



**GUIDED MISSILES** can definitely be launched from a submarine deck. Here's proof: the U.S.S. Carbonero firing a "loon"



# THE SUBS COULD LICK US

Russia has a huge fleet of new radar-defying, bomb-throwing U-boats that could wreck our coastal cities overnight. It's the only weapon against which we have no real defense. Here's what our new Navy chief and his team are doing about it . . .

by **Burke Wilkinson**



**BURKE WILKINSON** won a Navy citation for wartime anti-sub work, has written numerous articles on undersea war

WASHINGTON, D. C.

**T**HE man on the cover, Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, our new Navy chief, is more important to your safety than you probably realize. His big job these days is to find a way to lick the submarine menace.

To understand his problem, you have to absorb a new and unpleasant fact of life: the submarine, far from being an obsolete weapon, a page out of the history of past wars, is the one revolutionary new weapon against which the U. S. has no defense today.

Today, in the terrible event of war, enemy submarines could not only cut our supply lines to our troops and allies abroad, but could blast our coast with guided missiles from far out

at sea. If and when our enemies master the H-bomb, this can mean the utter annihilation of such cities as New York, Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

**And — most disturbing of all — the new underwater killers are at present virtually immune to counterattack.**

In order to understand what has happened, we must go back to World War II.

The submarine the Allies defeated in the last war was the conventional type of U-boat. It spent a good deal of time on the surface recharging its batteries. Its underwater speed was slow. It could be spotted by planes and destroyers and hunted down.

It was, in fact, a Model-T submarine.

Yet this Model-T sub sank 14 million tons of shipping and cost us thousands of lives. It took the Allies four years and one quarter of their total scientific effort to beat her, at the staggering expenditure of a hundred billion dollars in ships, weapons and research. Radar and the sound-detection device called sonar, the convoy system, the hunter-killer groups, the new fast-sinking depth charges — all these played their parts in the victory.

Then in the spring of 1944 the Germans put a breathing tube on their U-boats. This was the famous snorkel, which allowed a submarine to recharge her batteries while running